

**TOWN OF NATICK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SNOW AND ICE POLICY
2011- 2012**

The Department of Public Works is committed to providing a safe environment for all. If you have questions pertaining to there operational policies you may contact:

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The Town of Natick is ready for the inevitable snow we will receive this winter. The Highway Division will continue to carry out a complete snow removal/ice control program on all streets within the Town of Natick.

Because winter can be trying for motorists, it's important for you to know how snow removal and ice control will be handled.

The Town of Natick is made up of approximately one hundred and sixty miles of roads. The Highway Division is responsible for overseeing all winter maintenance. The Highway Division along with all other divisions of the Department of Public Works and hired contractors are sent out on assigned routes during a snow event. Schools and municipal lots are done after roads are cleared. The Town is also responsible for the sanding/salting of all roads. The Town has the capacity to store 3000 tons of salt under cover and 600 yards of sand. The salt stockpile is adequate for several storms and replenished as needed. We also can store 3000 gallons of anti icing material. The sand stockpile is adequate for the entire snow season.

WHEN THE STORM STARTS

An important step in dealing with snowfall is street salting. Top priority is given to the Town's main roads. Those roads are routes that the Town has found to have the heaviest year round traffic. They usually are major arteries running North/South or East/West. Operations begin when frozen precipitation begins falling.

WHEN THE STORM CONTINUES

When approximately two inches of snow has accumulated and more is expected, the Town moves into snow plowing operation. Our first responsibility is to open the main roads. These arterials are the key to maintaining a steady flow for residential traffic and emergency vehicles. The plowing then continues to remaining streets on the routes and to "open up" each one in sequence. If the storm continues in intensity the trucks remain in that same pattern until the storm abates. When that condition occurs the trucks begin to "widen out" all roads by pushing the accumulated snow back to the curb line and clearing the intersections. Remember that trained crews work round the clock during such storms to keep the roads open and passable. If there is a problem concerning road conditions, call the Department of Public Works.

Crews continue to monitor all roads for icy spots and areas where winds redeposit the snow in traffic lanes. Usually an application of sand is applied to all intersections, hills and curves, so that the riding surface and braking areas remain drivable.

SNOW PLOWING SIDEWALKS

The Town plows approximately 41 miles of sidewalks in the same manner as roads. Sidewalks along all main roads, business districts, schools are plowed as soon as possible. Please note that not all sidewalks are plowed.

After a substantial snowfall, snow is removed from the business districts, and municipal lots. Crews are also assigned to clear catch basins off so that melting snow can run off. The department makes every effort to schedule snow removal during off hours. However at times snow removal procedures may cause slight delays with traffic.

******HELPFUL HINTS******

Just as certain as the snow will arrive we will displease some property owners because we will be plowing their already cleared driveways full of snow again. Actually, we wish we could leave each driveway meticulously clear, but to do this would mean that we would never finish the plowing in a reasonable time. During a storm our plows must keep the pavement, or traveled right-of-way, cleared. After the storm has ended, in some cases we must "widen-out" and clear the shoulder. During this phase the driveway conflict appears, a plow on widening operations fills the opening in the driveway you have cleared. We recognize this as discouraging and irritating, but with your cooperation this inconvenience can be minimized. We suggest that you clear your driveway in the manner suggested. When shoveling out the mouth of your driveway throw the snow to the right or "down-side". DO NOT throw it in the road it will only be redeposited when the plow comes around again. DO NOT clean snow off your car in the road. Please DO NOT plow the snow onto the sidewalks in front of your residence. It takes twice as long to plow and is very costly.

LISTEN FOR SNOW ALERTS

When possible, snow bans for emergency purposes are announced on radio/television stations. **Remember there is no overnight parking in Natick from November 15th, to April 1st of each year.** Vehicles parked illegally or abandoned on roads are subject to towing at the owner's expense as well as ticketing by the Police Department. Please remove your car from the street as soon as you are aware of a snow alert. Emergency parking is in the municipal lot on Pond Street only. There is no parking in any other municipal parking lots overnight.

BE PATIENT

Remember, whether it is your driveway for which you are responsible or the 160 miles of roads that the Town is responsible for; snow removal is an arduous and time consuming job.

The Town will be well aware of any impending snowstorm and will alert crews before the bad weather is due to arrive. If you have already called about a legitimate driving hazard please don't call a second time. Please understand that the **Town cannot shovel ridges or windrows from your driveway that were left by the snowplow, nor can Town crews plow private property.**

OBJECTS IN THE RIGHT OF WAY

Personal property such as mailboxes or portable basketball hoops that are placed in the public right-of-way are put there at the owner's risk. The Town of Natick does not assume responsibility for damage to such items as a result of snow plowing operations.

RUBBISH PICKUP

During the winter months when there are snow banks along the roads, trash pick-up becomes more difficult. Please do not place trash bags, barrels or recycling bins on top of high snow banks. They should be placed on the street at the foot of the snow banks or at the end of driveways. Residents should always be aware of storm conditions. If street plowing operations are underway, try to avoid placing trash bags, barrels and bins in the path of plows. Under extreme weather conditions, trash and recycling pick-up may be suspended for a period of time. Check the town's website or call the DPW for up-to-date information.

Residents are advised that they can obtain sand or a sand-salt mix at the town's maintenance yard on Oak Street. These materials are for homeowners use only. Please bring your own container and shovel, a five gallon maximum and absolutely no pickup trucks

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75 WEST STREET
NATICK, MA 01760

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SNOW AND ICE POLICY